

SECRET

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COR-301✓  
Copy 2 of 9

2 January 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Plans)

THROUGH : Director of Administration, DPD/DD/P

SUBJECT : Contractor Correspondence Prepared in Support of  
CORONA Cover Story

1. In an effort to eliminate or possibly lessen the speculation among employees of the Lockheed Missile Systems Division and the USAF Ballistic Missile Division, it is planned to have various prepared correspondence passed between members of the management staffs. Such correspondence would, in each instance, either support the DISCOVERER cover story or deal with the infeasibility of developing a satellite reconnaissance camera having resolution of a quality necessary for photo interpretation.

2. The first of these is a letter from [ ] to Mr. Root, both of LMSD, in which the former expresses his concern over the amount of press speculation having to do with the DISCOVERER Program and its reported association with the WS-117L SENTRY Series. He suggests that Mr. Root alert his departments to tighten up on their discussions so as not to have press statements concerning DISCOVERER attributed to any Lockheed personnel. One of the reasons for such a letter coming at this time is that the Ballistic Missile Division recently conducted a security survey of the Lockheed Missile Systems Division (WS-117L) which was somewhat unfavorable. This survey prompted LMSD to make some rather drastic corrections in their management procedures. This would be the time appropriate for [ ] to comment on this and other related subjects.

3. The other letters between Mr. Root and General Schriever deal with various proposals made to the Lockheed Missile Systems Division for a reconnaissance camera as a 117L payload. Mr. Root asks for General Schriever's reaction to these proposals and the General replies that a thorough study has been made of similar proposals possibly from identical sources, and it does not appear to be possible to have equipment recovered that will be within the weight and space limitations and still produce results of significant value.

4. I recognize that the letters as presently written are not in the language and style of the intended authors; however, they have been prepared only to serve as a text guide for such authors. Col.

SECRET

COR-301

Page 2

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Sheppard of BMD and [ ] of LMSD have assured me that they can arrange the final preparation of any correspondence we suggest or furnish them with. Both have agreed that such correspondence would benefit the CORONA program and heartily endorse quick action in this regard.

5. I would appreciate your reviewing this correspondence and advising me of your opinion as to text content and value such letters will serve. Should you find that the various drafts meet with your approval, your concurrence to this memorandum and your notations on the attached drafts will enable quick preparation of final papers.

/s/  
[ ]  
Cover Officer  
DPD/DD/P

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Attachments:

1. Ltr from [ ] to Mr. Root
2. Ltr from Mr. Root to Gen. Schriever
3. Ltr from Gen. Schriever to Mr. Root

CONCURRENCE:

/s/  
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.  
Deputy Director (Plans)

*Returned w/ Cov 0260*  
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TMA 2 Jan 1959